

AMIDST THE UNKNOWN IS A CRACKLING FLASH OF ENERGY.

AND THEN TWO FIGURES APPEAR

AS SOME KNOW WELL, LADY DEATH ONCE WAS THE QUEEN OF ALL THAT IS DEAD AND DYING. SHE CONQUERED LUCIFER AND RULED HELL WITH A BRUTAL, IRON FIST.

AND THOUGH SHE TRIED TO RENOUNCE HER WARRIOR WAYS, AN ODYSSEY REVEALED THAT SHE WAS FATED TO WAGE WAR.

TO KNOW HER STORY IS TO KNOW A WOMAN CURSED.

WHY ARE WE STOPPING HERE, VANDALA? I TIRE OF THIS EXCURSION! LET'S BE DONE WITH IT!

I BEG YOUR PATIENCE, MILADY. BEFORE WE SET FOOT ON THE GOLDEN REALM OF ASGARD, THERE'S A THING OR TWO I MUST REVEAL.

YOU SEE, WE'VE ENTERED GRAVE TIMES, HOPE, AND YOU MUST LEARN WHERE IT ALL BEGAN.



ODIN WAS THE VAL-FATHER OF ASGARD AND FIRST AMONG THE GODS.

NEVER WAS THERE A LEADER MORE MIGHTY, HIS DEDICATION TO THE REALM OF WARRIORS WAS UNWAVERING.

WHAT SEE YOU, HEMDALL?

OFF THE PORT BOW, VAL-FATHER, LIGHTS COMING.

BEWARE, WELL WISHERS BEARING GIFTS, FATHER.

BUT ODIN WAS A WANDERER TOO. HE OFTEN TRAVELED BEYOND TO OBSERVE THE UNIVERSAL GOINGS ON.

DON'T LIKE THIS A BIT, FATHER. LOOK, IT'S THE GREAT ABYSS AND BEYOND IT... VIGRID.

AYE, THE LAST BATTLE PLACE.

THEN IT'S GOOD WE STOPPED BEFORE IT.

GRAB HOLD OF YOURSELVES! SINCE LOKI KILLED BRAVE BALDER, ALL OF ASGARD IS IN AN UPROAR. AS IF NOTHING GOOD WILL EVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

CAN YOU BLAME US, LORD?

YOU KNOW WHAT THE COMMON-FOLK SAY, RANAROK... THE END OF ALL THINGS IS COMIN'.

WE'RE ALL FATED TO DOOM, THOR, BUT NOT TODAY. BETTER TO DIE FIGHTING THAN DIE THE "STRAW DEATH."

AYE.

GREETINGS, I AM YOU AND THIS IS ERA. WE ARE WANDERERS LOOKING FOR TRINKETS.

AYE, WE'VE HEARD, STRANGE TOO. WE'VE MUCH MISSING OF LATE.

I HEAR YA WANT SAFE PASSAGE THROUGH THE GOLDEN REALM, TOO.

'FRAID I CAN GRANT YA NEITHER

WE BELIEVED ODIN WAS OMNIPOTENT, BUT HE WAS JUST A SPECK IN THE COSMIC SCHEME OF THINGS. TO OUR HORROR, THAT'S WHAT WE LEARNED THAT DAY.

TURN BACK WHERE YA CAME FROM.

GO NO FURTHER!





ARE  
YA DEAF,  
MAN? I TOL'  
YA TO TURN  
BACK!

YOU  
MISUNDERSTAND  
OUR INTENTIONS. WE'RE  
HUMBLE TRAVELERS. THE  
TRINKETS YOU OFFER  
REMINDE US OF OUR  
JOURNEYS.

AND  
THE CHILDREN  
ARE SO FOND  
OF TRINKETS,  
ISN'T THAT  
RIGHT?

TRINKETS!

TRINKETS

PLEASE,  
TAKE THIS  
ORB AS AN  
OFFERING.  
GO ON,  
TAKE IT. WHAT  
HARM CAN IT  
DO?

EH?!

WHICK

WHICK

EEERRGGHH!

SKLIK

HACK  
THE  
BASTARDS  
TO PIECES!

'TIS  
A RUSE WE  
EXPECTED! SOUND  
THE HORNS AND  
ATTACK!

AND  
FEED THEIR  
PARTS TO THE  
WORMS!

HAHA  
HA!



SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING CHANGED.  
AND NOTHING IN ANY OF THE  
WARRIOR'S LEGENDARY JOURNEYS  
HAD PREPARED THEM FOR WHAT  
THEY WERE ABOUT TO ENCOUNTER.

LET  
SLIP...

THE  
FINITE  
FORM!

AS YOU  
COMMAND,  
SCORPIA!

END  
THE HIDING,  
DOOM MAGISTRATES!  
LET SLIP THE FINITE  
FORMS AND BECOME  
UNCREATED!

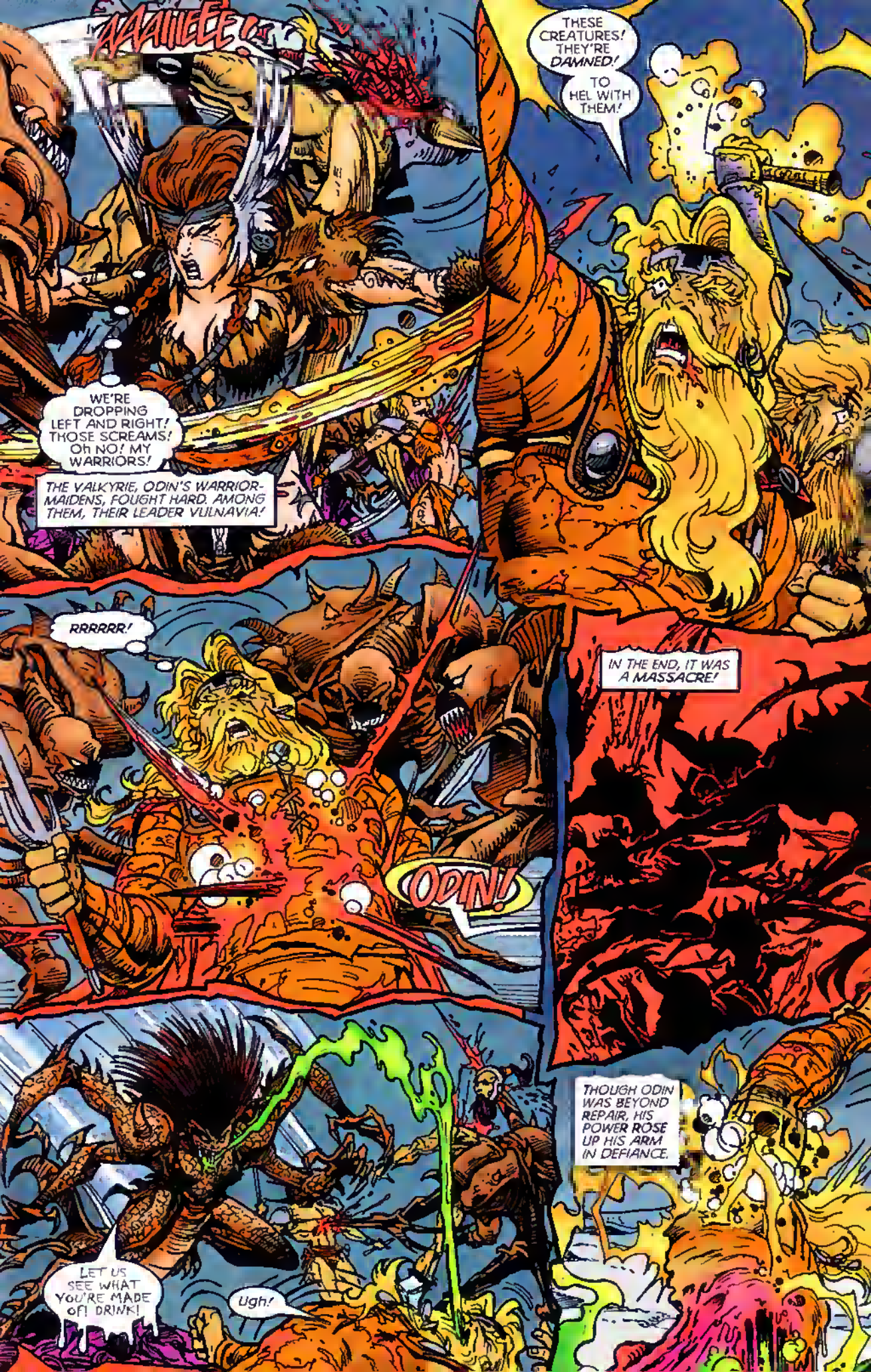
AYE, THEY'RE  
MONSTERS, BUT  
THEY BLEED AS  
WE DO!  
Eh?

THEY'RE  
MONSTERS!  
SHOW NO  
MERCY!

SO  
CERTAIN?

REEEK  
REEEK





AAAAAIIIEE!

THESE  
CREATURES!  
THEY'RE  
DAMNED!  
TO  
HELL WITH  
THEM!

WE'RE  
DROPPING  
LEFT AND RIGHT!  
THOSE SCREAMS!  
OH NO! MY  
WARRIORS!

THE VALKYRIE, ODIN'S WARRIOR-  
MAIDENS, FOUGHT HARD. AMONG  
THEM, THEIR LEADER VULNAVIA!

RRRRRR!

ODIN!

IN THE END, IT WAS  
A MASSACRE!

THOUGH ODIN  
WAS BEYOND  
REPAIR, HIS  
POWER ROSE  
UP HIS ARM  
IN DEFIANCE.

LET US  
SEE WHAT  
YOU'RE MADE  
OF! DRINK!

Ugh!



AND OUT OF THE  
HORRID MUCK THAT  
WAS YON CAME  
THE END.

HE CALLED HIMSELF  
GENOCIDE!

ALL  
FATHER! ALL  
FATHER!

AND THIS  
IS WHAT  
I'VE BEEN  
SCAVENGING  
FOR!

POWER,  
PURE AND  
LIGHT!

PERFECT  
FOR MY  
CHAOTIC  
SCHEMES!

THE  
POWER,  
GONE?!

I'VE BEEN  
ROBBED!

THE  
COMMONERS  
WERE RIGHT,  
RAGNAROK COMES,  
BUT I AM PREPARED.  
**ERRRGH!**

VAL-  
FATHER!

**KRAK**

**KERISH**



GO  
VULNAVIA,  
WARN THE  
OTHERS!

WHAT CAME NEXT, WHO  
KNOWS. VULNAVIA TOOK  
TO THE SKIES AND DIDN'T  
LOOK BACK.

HOLD, DOOM  
MAGISTRATES!

WHERE  
IS THIS  
CREATURE'S  
MUCH VAUNTED  
POWER?

VAL,  
FATHER, NO!  
THERE IS NO  
HONOR IN  
ESCAPE!

WRETCHED  
SOFT-SKINS!

GO! I  
COMMAND  
YOU!

VALHALLA, I  
AM COMING!

WITHOUT  
IT, THIS  
EXCURSION WAS  
POINTLESS!

RANSACK  
REPORT,  
SCORPIA, ALL  
SOFT-SKIN,  
UNLIVING!

THEY  
CALLED THESE  
CREATURES  
GODS?

THE  
UNIVERSE  
OF ORDER HAS  
MUCH TO FEAR  
FROM THE  
HORDE!

WHERE  
DID THE  
POWER...

...GO?!

SINCE  
THEN, GENOCIDE  
AND HIS ARMIES INVADED  
THE REALM, WE DON'T KNOW  
WHAT HE WANTS, BUT WE LOSE  
GROUND EVERY DAY, WE HAVE  
NO CLEAR LEADERSHIP,  
THE VALKYRIE ARE  
DEMORALIZED.

FRIGGA,  
SHE SAID YOU  
WERE THE CHOSEN  
ONE, THE ONE MEANT TO  
DELIVER US FROM EVIL.  
THAT'S WHY I CAME  
FOR YOU.

ME?! WHY  
SHOULD I  
DO THAT?

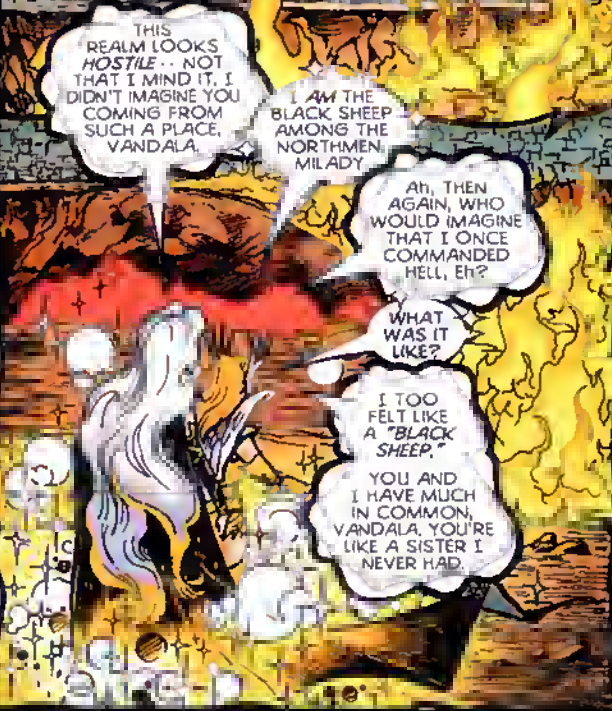
WELL,  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING  
ELSE YOU MUST  
KNOW, IT'S  
VITAL.

GENOCIDE.  
I RECALL THAT  
NAME FROM  
YEARS AGO...

IT HAS  
TO DO WITH  
YOU AND I.  
WHAT?!

• SEE  
LADY DEATH:  
THE  
CRUCIBLE  
#1/2.









TIS VANDALA

THANK  
"ODIN ASGARD'S  
SURVIVED!"

VANDALA?  
HA! NEVER  
THOUGHT YOU'D  
BE BACK.

GO ON,  
YOU KNOW  
WHAT TO  
DO.

RRRRRR!



SHOW  
NO FEAR AND  
THE FENRIS WOLF  
WILL LET YOU  
LIVE

HE GUARDS  
THE GATE FERRETING  
OUT GENOCIDE'S HORDE.  
YOU SEE THEY CAN CHANGE  
SHAPE EASILY, THEY'VE  
EVEN TAKEN OUR  
FORM.



BE  
QUICK  
ABOUT  
IT!

WATCH  
YOUR TONE,  
GUARD, YOU  
DON'T KNOW  
WHO YOU USHER  
FORTH.

I  
BRING WITH  
ME -- THE  
CHOSEN  
ONE.

THE FENRIS  
WOLF REMINDS  
ME OF MY NAMELESS  
WOLVES. HOW ARE  
THEY? AND VASSAGO,  
MY TRUSTED STEED,  
HOW DOES  
HE FARE?



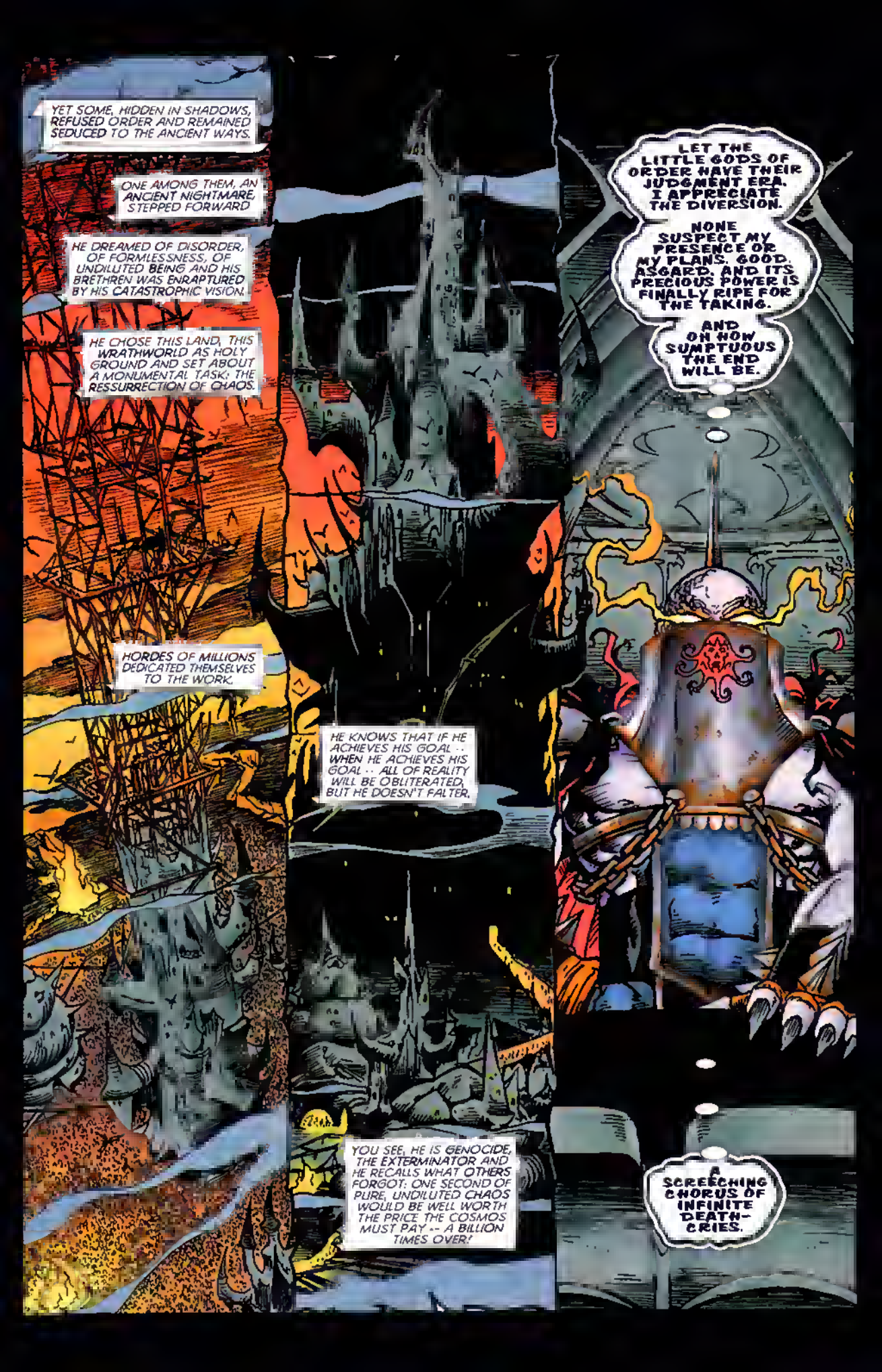
IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS  
CHAOS, THE TIME BEFORE  
CREATION, A SWIRLING MASS  
OF FORMLESS UNCERTAINTY.

BEINGS OF INDESCRIBABLE, PRIMAL  
POWER CLASHED CONSTANTLY  
ON ALL UNIVERSAL PLANES, SOME  
REAL AND SOME IMAGINED, FOR  
SUCH WAS THE NATURE OF THINGS.

HIERARCHIES ROSE AND FELL,  
HOLOCAUSTS ABOUNDED  
IN CONSTANT, BLINDING  
DEATHFLASHES, FOR SOME  
IT WAS PERPETUAL  
DIVINE ECSTASY.

BUT IN TIME, AND THROUGH  
TRICKERY, CHAOS WAS  
ABOLISHED, THE UNIVERSE  
GREW CALM AND DEFINED  
BY LIGHT AND DARK.





YET SOME, HIDDEN IN SHADOWS,  
REFUSED ORDER AND REMAINED  
SEDUCED TO THE ANCIENT WAYS.

ONE AMONG THEM, AN  
ANCIENT NIGHTMARE,  
STEPPED FORWARD

HE DREAMED OF DISORDER,  
OF FORMLESSNESS, OF  
UNDILUTED BEING AND HIS  
BRETHREN WAS ENRaptured  
BY HIS CATASTROPHIC VISION.

HE CHOSE THIS LAND, THIS  
WRATHWORLD AS HOLY  
GROUND AND SET ABOUT  
A MONUMENTAL TASK: THE  
RESSURRECTION OF CHAOS.

HORDES OF MILLIONS  
DEDICATED THEMSELVES  
TO THE WORK.

HE KNOWS THAT IF HE  
ACHIEVES HIS GOAL...  
WHEN HE ACHIEVES HIS  
GOAL... ALL OF REALITY  
WILL BE OBLITERATED,  
BUT HE DOESN'T FALTER.

YOU SEE, HE IS GENOCIDE,  
THE EXTERMINATOR AND  
HE RECALLS WHAT OTHERS  
FORGOT: ONE SECOND OF  
PURE, UNDILUTED CHAOS  
WOULD BE WELL WORTH  
THE PRICE THE COSMOS  
MUST PAY -- A BILLION  
TIMES OVER!

LET THE  
LITTLE GODS OF  
ORDER HAVE THEIR  
JUDGMENT ERA.  
I APPRECIATE  
THE DIVERSION.

NONE  
SUSPECT MY  
PRESENCE OR  
MY PLANS. GOOD.  
ASGARD, AND ITS  
PRECIOUS POWER IS  
FINALLY RIPE FOR  
THE TAKING.

AND  
ON HOW  
SUMPTUOUS  
THE END  
WILL BE.

A  
SCREECHING  
CHORUS OF  
INFINITE  
DEATH-  
CRIES.





BY THE VAL FATHER! IT'S THE CHOSEN ONE!  
SAY YOU'LL SAVE US! PLEASE!

GET UP WOMAN THAT'S NO WAY TO BEHAVE

HA! THIS IS THE CHOSEN ONE WE'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT?

SHE DON'T LOOK LIKE MUCH, A DAINTY THING, IF YA ASK ME!

WHAT ARE YA DOIN'? SCAMPERIN' TO THE SANCTUARY OF FRIGGA'S CASTLE WITH THE REST OF THE ROYALTY?!

THE CHOSEN ONE!

THE CHOSEN ONE!

YOU'RE QUICK WITH YOUR TONGUE, SAVAGE! BE MINDFUL, OR I'LL TEAR IT OUT!



THOR AND ODIN ARE DEAD AND GONE! THEY AIN'T COMING BACK, YA HEAR? WHAT HOPE DO WE HAVE? WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE A WITHERING DEATH AT GENOCIDE'S HANDS!

ONE THING IS SURE, YOU AIN'T OUR SAVIOR!

DIDN'T SAY I WAS!

STOP! THIS IS NO TIME TO FIGHT AMONG OURSELVES!

THE MENFOLK HAVE GONE MAD!

ODIN AND THE OTHERS DIDN'T APPEAR IN VALHALLA, WHERE THE DEAD WARRIORS GO TO PREPARE FOR THE FINAL BATTLE, TO BE DENIED BATTLE, NO MAN CAN IMAGINE AN END THAT IS WORSE!

LOOK AT HER! SHE'S NOTHING! IT WAS A FOOL'S MISSION I SAY!

YE-OWWWW!



ENOUGH!

THIS GIRL  
HAS BRAVED  
DREADED STORMS  
AND THE UNKNOWN TO  
SAVE YOUR  
WORTHLESS  
HIDES!

THE  
LEAST YOU  
COULD DO  
IS SHOW  
RESPECT!

SINCE THAT  
SIMPLE GESTURE  
IS BEYOND YOUR  
ABILITIES, YOU SHALL  
FORFEIT YOUR  
EXISTENCE!

KRAKOOOM!

AAIEEEEE! AAIEEEEE!

NO  
WOMAN  
WILL LEAD OUR  
WARRIOR  
RACE!

RIIIP

I DIDN'T  
THINK SO.

ANY OTHER  
CONVERSATIONALISTS?



CONTEMPTUOUS  
SIMPLETONS!

I SEE YOUR  
POINT OF VIEW  
BUT WAS THAT  
NECESSARY?

YOU CANNOT  
FATHOM MY  
POINT OF VIEW,  
GIRL! AND YOU  
SHOULD BE HAPPY  
YOU DON'T.

SHE  
COULD VERY  
WELL BE THE  
CHOSEN  
ONE!

PERHAPS  
SHE COULD RALLY  
THE VALKYRIE WHERE  
TYR AND VULNAVIA  
COULD NOT!

LET US  
PRAY!

BUT  
SHE BEARS  
A MEAN STREAK.  
TIS' MORE THAN  
WARRIOR RAGE,  
I WAGER.

DID THEY  
SAY 'CHOSEN  
ONE', FRIEND  
BROCK?

-HIC-! AYE,  
GRIMMIR, THEY DID  
ALL THIS ACTION,  
WHERE'VE WE  
GON? -HIC-!

DROWNING  
IN THE ALE FOR  
WANT OF A QUEST,  
YA PUSS SPILLING  
DRUNK! THIS  
CHOSEN ONE, MAYBE SHE'S  
OUR TICKET! TO HEL  
WITH GENOCIDE,  
I SAY!

HAVE  
ANOTHER SKULL  
FULL, GRIM. -HIC-!  
DRINK UP AND BE  
MERRY, 'CAUSE THE  
END IS NEAR!  
-HIC-!

THAT'S NO  
WAY FOR ODIN'S  
WEAPONSMITH  
TO SPEAK!

MY  
BEST DAYS  
ARE BEHIND ME. THE  
ASGARDIANS HAVE  
NO HEART! THEY'VE  
NO NEED OF MY  
SERVICES.

SOMEHOW,  
I THINK THAT'S  
GONNA CHANGE.  
SOBER UP, MAGGOT  
BREATH!

FINALLY,  
SHE'S ARRIVED.  
THE PLAYERS ARE  
JUST WHERE I  
WANT THEM.

LET  
THE END  
BEGIN!

WRATHWORLD.

YOU KNOW  
WHERE TO FIND  
WHAT YOU SEEK,  
LORD. RETRIEVE THE  
POWER! BE DONE  
WITH IT!

IF IT  
WERE ONLY  
THAT SIMPLE.  
MY DEADLY  
ANTIGONE.

IF I'M  
TO SUCCEED,  
ALL PIECES OF  
THE PUZZLE  
MUST FALL  
INTO PLACE.





ODIN'S THRONE ROOM.

VANDALA, I DIDN'T EXPECT A POWEROUS PARADE!

CROWDS MAKE ME... UNEASY.

I BEG YOU... PLAY ALONG.

SHE'S SO PALE!

AND WE ARE NOT?

VANDALA, YOU'VE DONE IT, CHILD! AGAINST ALL ODDS, YOU'VE BROUGHT HER -- THE CHOSEN ONE!

HOPE, I AM FRIGGA, THE QUEEN OF ASGARD. AND THIS IS TYR, THE LAST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE GOD OF WAR.

WE'VE ANTICIPATED YOUR ARRIVAL FOR SOME TIME, CHILD.

BOW TO YOUR QUEEN, HOPE!

I BOW TO NO ONE! AND THERE IS NO HOPE!

ADDRESS ME AS WHO I AM, DEATH, LADY DEATH!

POOR THING, YOU'VE ENDURED SUCH A TRAGIC JOURNEY. IT'S MADE YOU COLD LIKE THE WINTER.

I'M SO SORRY, THE FATES SPIN WEBS WE UNDERSTAND SO LITTLE OF.

YOU SPEAK AS IF YOU KNOW ME.

COME CLOSER. LET ME SEE YOU. YOU'RE THE SPITTING IMAGE OF YOUR MOTHER, MARION.

HOW DO YOU KNOW MY MOTHER'S NAME?!

ALL IN GOOD TIME.

I NEED A FAVOR. IT IS A GRAVE TIME FOR ASGARD... FOR ALL THAT EXISTS IN TRUTH, INDULGE ME. YOU SEE, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR MY SUBJECTS TO HAVE HOPE, EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY.

ALL...ALL RIGHT.





LET US  
REJOICE!  
HOPE HAS  
ARRIVED!

THE ICELANDS NORTH OF ASGARD  
ARE HOME TO ICE GIANTS.  
WITHOUT WARNING, GENOCIDE'S  
DOOM MAGISTRATES ATTACK.

LOOK,  
THRALL!  
THEY COME!  
THEIR NUMBERS,  
COUNTLESS!

NO  
MATTER  
FIGHT!

WE'RE  
OVERRUN!

STRANGE,  
THERE'S  
SOMETHING ABOUT  
THIS WOMAN. I'M  
COMPELLED TO  
LISTEN TO HER.  
  
IS IT  
SORCERY?

GRRR!

COME  
ON. COME  
ON!  
  
WORRY NOT,  
EANDRA!

BUT  
THRALL, WE'RE  
SURROUNDED!

FATHER,  
HELP!

THRALL,  
HELLLLLLPPPP!

EANDRA,  
NO!

NOT MY  
LOVE!





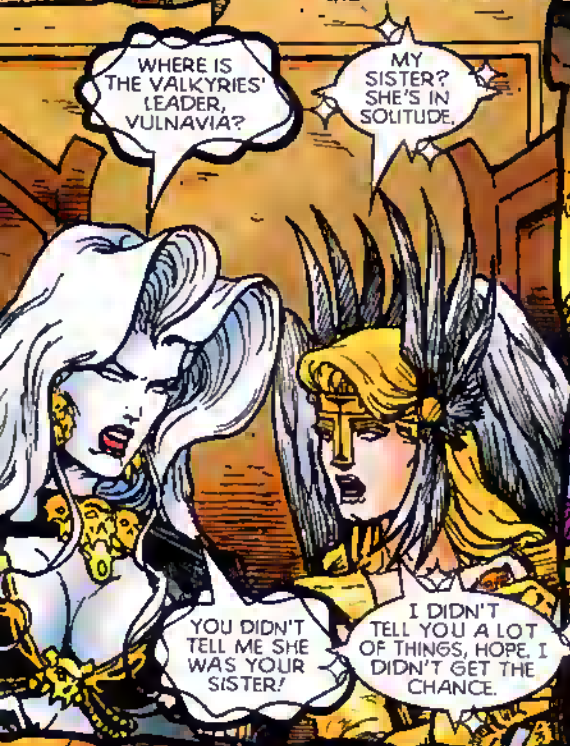




I FELT COMPELLED TO COME HERE, WHY I DO NOT KNOW. CERTAINLY VANDALA'S KINSHIP PLAYED A PART IN IT.

PERHAPS IT WAS MY CHANCE ENCOUNTER WITH GENOCIDE AND HIS GUARD SINESTRA IN MY ENDLESS GRAVEYARD YEARS AGO.

THAT WHOLE EPISODE REMAINS UNCLEAR TO ME. THEY WERE AFTER SOMETHING, BUT WHAT?



WHERE IS THE VALKYRIES' LEADER, VULNAVIA?

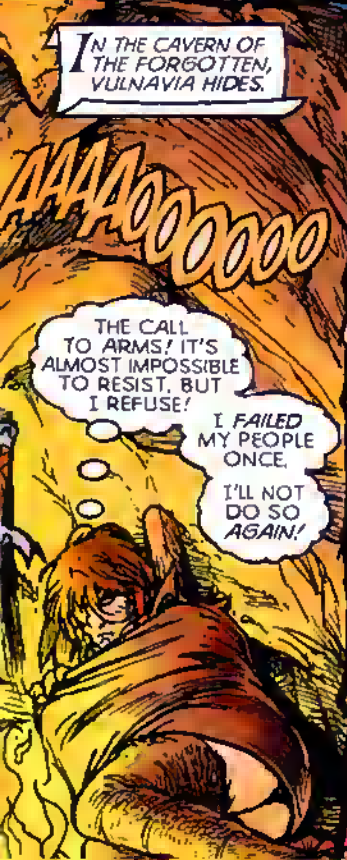
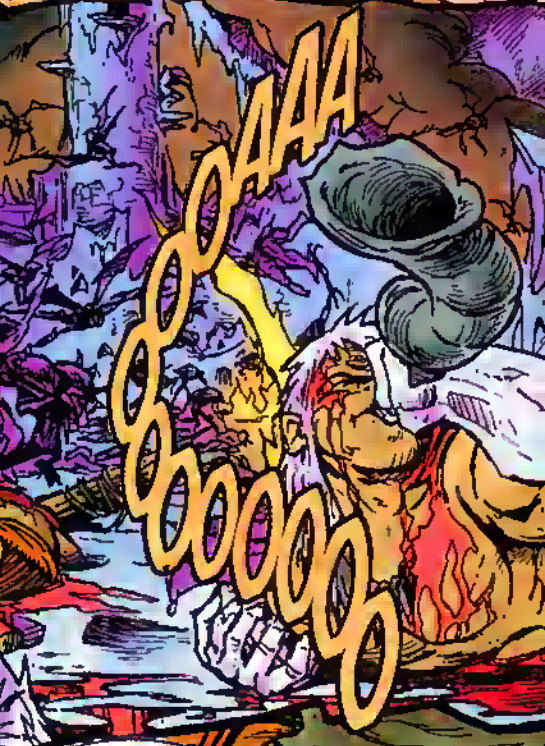
MY SISTER? SHE'S IN SOLITUDE.

YOU DIDN'T TELL ME SHE WAS YOUR SISTER!

I DIDN'T TELL YOU A LOT OF THINGS, HOPE I DIDN'T GET THE CHANCE.



WE NEED HELP!  
SOUND THE HORN!



IN THE CAVERN OF THE FORGOTTEN, VULNAVIA HIDES.

THE CALL TO ARMS! IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO RESIST, BUT I REFUSE!  
I FAILED MY PEOPLE ONCE.  
I'LL NOT DO SO AGAIN!



LORD TYR, EXCUSE MY INTERRUPTION!  
WE'VE HEARD HORNS FROM THE ICELANDS UP NORTH! DOOM MAGISTRATES ARE ATTACKING IN FORCE!



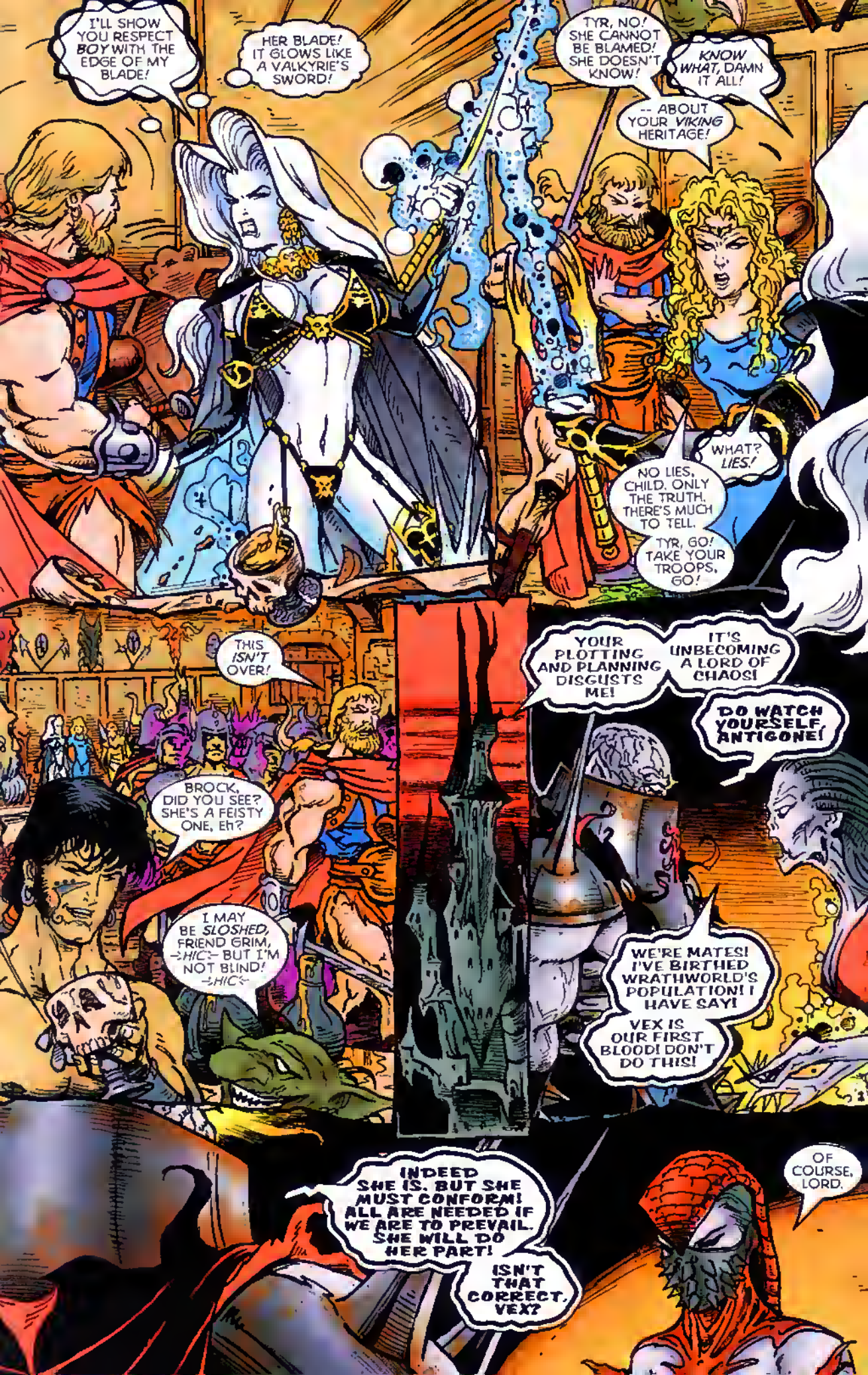
I'VE NO LOVE FOR FROST GIANTS, BUT IF GENOCIDE TAKES THE NORTH, ASGARD WILL BE VULNERABLE TO ATTACK!

MOUNT UP!  
LADY DEATH, DO YOU RIDE?

I'LL NOT FIGHT ON A WHIM! WHAT AM I FIGHTING FOR?

INSUFFERABLE WITCH! LET ME CUT HER DOWN WHERE SHE STANDS, MY QUEEN! SHE SHOWS NO RESPECT!





I'LL SHOW  
YOU RESPECT  
BOY WITH THE  
EDGE OF MY  
BLADE!

HER BLADE!  
IT GLOWS LIKE  
A VALKYRIE'S  
SWORD!

TYR, NO!  
SHE CANNOT  
BE BLAMED!  
SHE DOESN'T  
KNOW!

KNOW  
WHAT, DAMN  
IT ALL!

-- ABOUT  
YOUR VIKING  
HERITAGE!

WHAT?  
LIES!

NO LIES,  
CHILD. ONLY  
THE TRUTH.  
THERE'S MUCH  
TO TELL.

TYR, GO!  
TAKE YOUR  
TROOPS,  
GO!

THIS  
ISN'T  
OVER!

BROCK,  
DID YOU SEE?  
SHE'S A FEISTY  
ONE, EH?

I MAY  
BE SLOSHED,  
FRIEND GRIM,  
->HIC-> BUT I'M  
NOT BLIND!  
->HIC->

YOUR  
PLOTING  
AND PLANNING  
DISGUSTS  
ME!

IT'S  
UNBECOMING  
A LORD OF  
CHAOS!

DO WATCH  
YOURSELF,  
ANTIGONE!

WE'RE MATES!  
I'VE BIRTHED  
WRATHWORLD'S  
POPULATION! I  
HAVE SAID!

VEX IS  
OUR FIRST  
BLOOD! DON'T  
DO THIS!

INDEED  
SHE IS. BUT SHE  
MUST CONFORM!  
ALL ARE NEEDED IF  
WE ARE TO PREVAIL.  
SHE WILL DO  
HER PART!

ISN'T  
THAT  
CORRECT,  
VEX?

OF  
COURSE,  
LORD.





YOU DEMAND TOO MUCH ORDER!

DON'T YOU REALIZE, IT WILL TAKE ONE TO GAIN THE OTHER!

SO VEX DO WHAT MUST BE DONE!

TYR'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW?

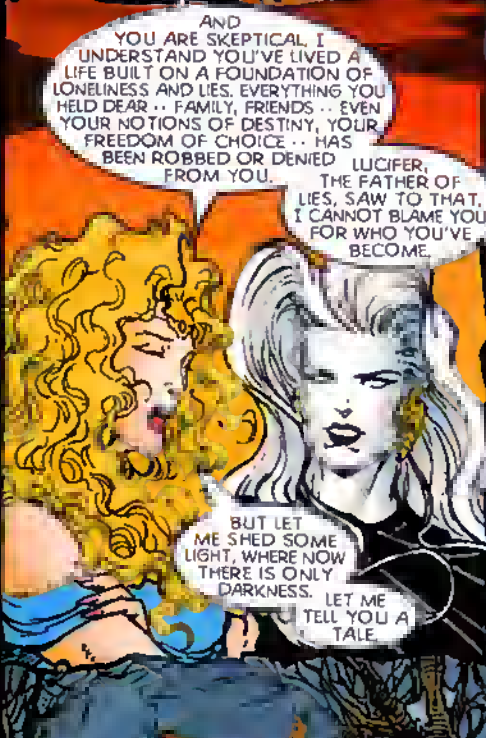
THEY'RE OUT THERE RIGHT NOW, FIGHTING FOR US. AND IN DOING SO, THE FATE OF EVERYTHING HANGS IN THE BALANCE.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

FROM MY DEPARTED, ODIN, HE KNEW THIS TIME OF JUDGMENT WOULD COME.

WHAT IS GENOCIDE AFTER?

HONESTLY, WE'RE NOT SURE EXACTLY, BUT THEY KEEP STEALING ARTIFACTS.



AND YOU ARE SKEPTICAL. I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE LIVED A LIFE BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF LONELINESS AND LIES. EVERYTHING YOU HELD DEAR... FAMILY, FRIENDS... EVEN YOUR NOTIONS OF DESTINY, YOUR FREEDOM OF CHOICE... HAS BEEN ROBBED OR DENIED FROM YOU.

LUCIFER, THE FATHER OF LIES, SAW TO THAT. I CANNOT BLAME YOU FOR WHO YOU'VE BECOME.

BUT LET ME SHED SOME LIGHT, WHERE NOW THERE IS ONLY DARKNESS. LET ME TELL YOU A TALE.



"THE VIKINGS WERE A HARDY LOT, AND NONE WERE MORE HARDY THAN MARION SVELGATE AND HER FIRST HUSBAND, AGNAR.

RUN MARION!



"AFTER THE DEFEAT OF THE FINAL VIKING CHIEF BY CHRISTIAN RECKONING, THE VIKINGS SPREAD ACROSS THE WILDS OF EASTERN EUROPE.

"THEIR NUMBERS DIMINISHED. EACH FOUGHT FOR SURVIVAL AND NO VIKING FOUGHT HARDER THAN MARION."

BASTARDS



AGNAR IT APPEARS YOUR LOVELY WIFE IS SWIFTER THAN YOU!

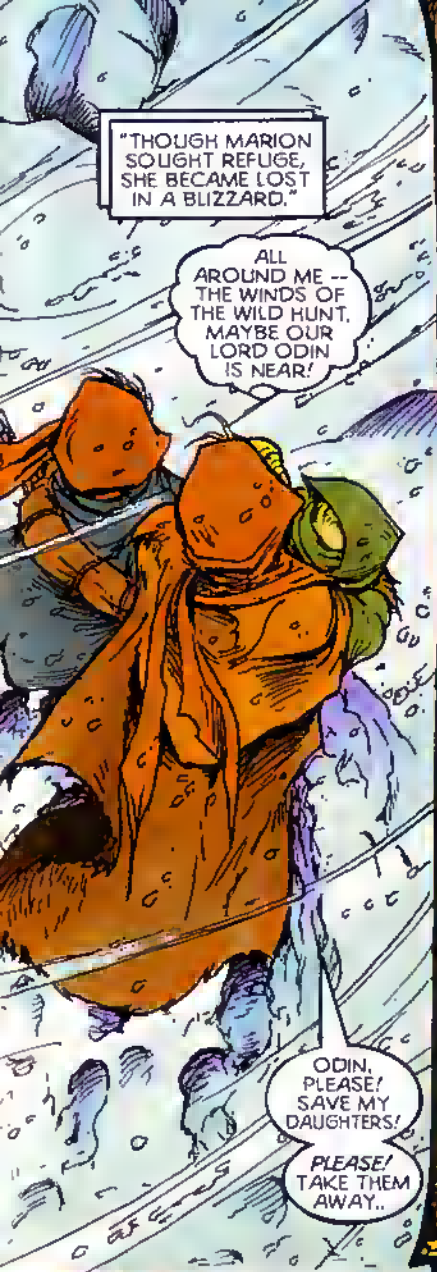
MATTHIAS NO!

DON'T WORRY AGNAR I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER

AHHH!

SPLA





"THOUGH MARION SOUGHT REFUGE, SHE BECAME LOST IN A BLIZZARD."

ALL AROUND ME -- THE WINDS OF THE WILD HUNT, MAYBE OUR LORD ODIN IS NEAR!

ODIN, PLEASE! SAVE MY DAUGHTERS!

PLEASE! TAKE THEM AWAY...



SHE'S SHIVERING. OH, NO, THEY'RE SURE TO DIE!

ODIN, PLEASE HEAR MY PLEA!



"OUT OF THE BLIZZARD, A TRAVELER CAME."

YOUR DAUGHTERS WILL BE SAFE WITH ME, MARION. I WILL LEAVE YOU ALONE, BUT DON'T GIVE UP HOPE.

YOUR WORK HERE ON THIS FRAGILE GLOBE IS NOT DONE.



THE TASK I ASK OF YOU IS MOST IMPORTANT.

YOU SEE, MY POWER IS TOO VAST, TOO MUCH FOR ONE GOD, I WANT YOU TO KEEP MUCH OF IT FOR ME AND PASS IT TO YOUR NEXT CHILD.



HEED MY WORDS, MARION, THOUGH YOUR DAYS WILL GROW DARK...

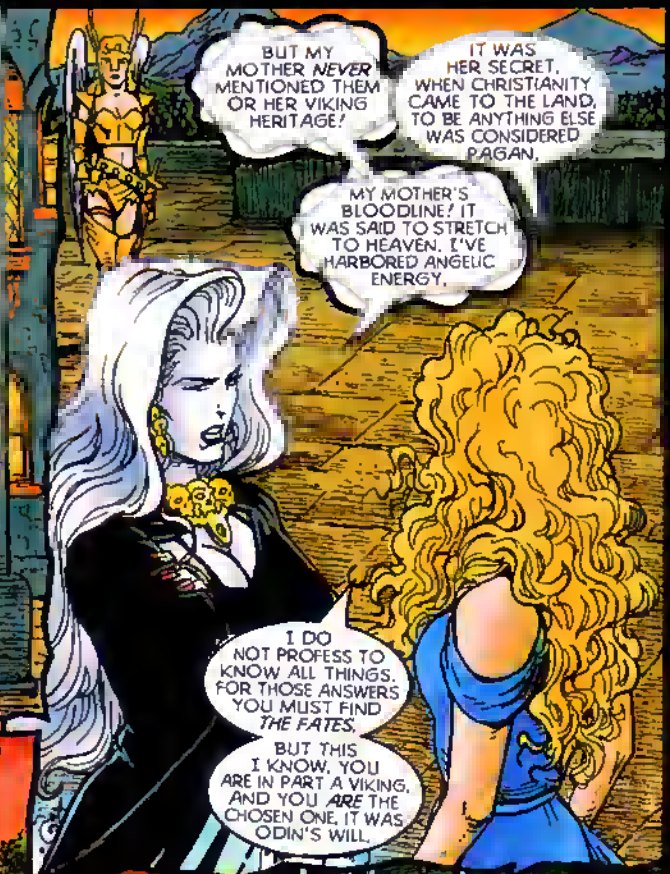
... HAVE HOPE.

YES, MILORD ODIN.





AND ODIN RAISED MARION'S DAUGHTERS AS HIS OWN. THEY AGED SLOWLY AS ALL ASGARDIANS DO AND BECAME GREAT WARRIORS, VALKYRIES



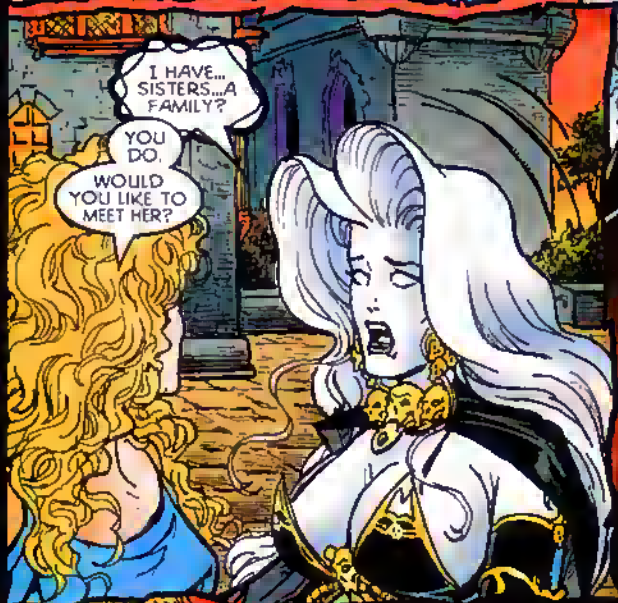
BUT MY MOTHER NEVER MENTIONED THEM OR HER VIKING HERITAGE!

IT WAS HER SECRET. WHEN CHRISTIANITY CAME TO THE LAND, TO BE ANYTHING ELSE WAS CONSIDERED PAGAN.

MY MOTHER'S BLOODLINE! IT WAS SAID TO STRETCH TO HEAVEN. I'VE HARBORED ANGELIC ENERGY.

I DO NOT PROFESS TO KNOW ALL THINGS. FOR THOSE ANSWERS YOU MUST FIND THE FATES.

BUT THIS I KNOW. YOU ARE IN PART A VIKING. AND YOU ARE THE CHOSEN ONE. IT WAS ODIN'S WILL.



I HAVE... SISTERS... A FAMILY?

YOU DO. WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET HER?

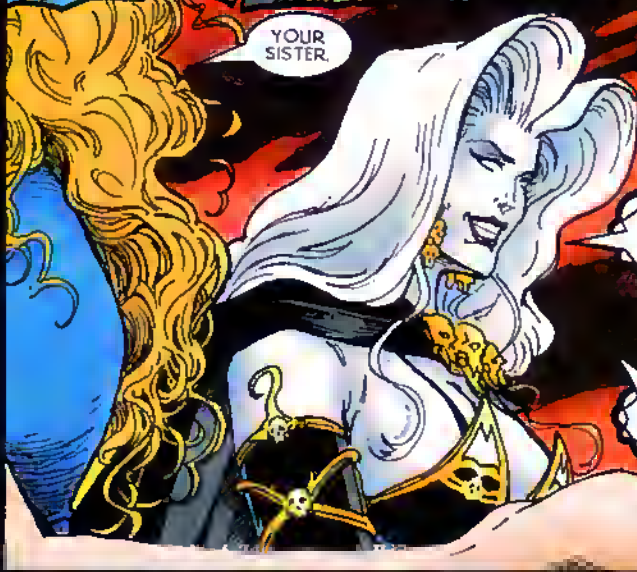


RAISED IN LINDER-HIVE WAR PITS OF WRATHWORLD, VEX CALLS UPON ALL HER SURVIVAL SKILLS TO INFILTRATE FRIGGA'S CASTLE

ALL CLEAR.

AS GENOCIDE'S FIRST BLOOD, I POSSESS ABILITIES APPROPRIATE TO THIS TASK.

STILL, DOOM MAGISTRATES RELISH THIS WORK. WHY DIDN'T HE SEND SINESTRA?!

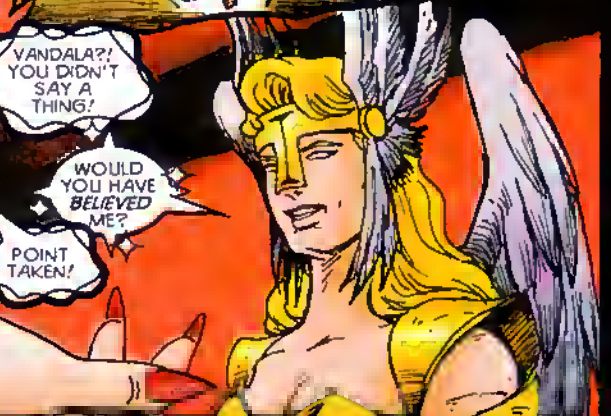


YOUR SISTER.

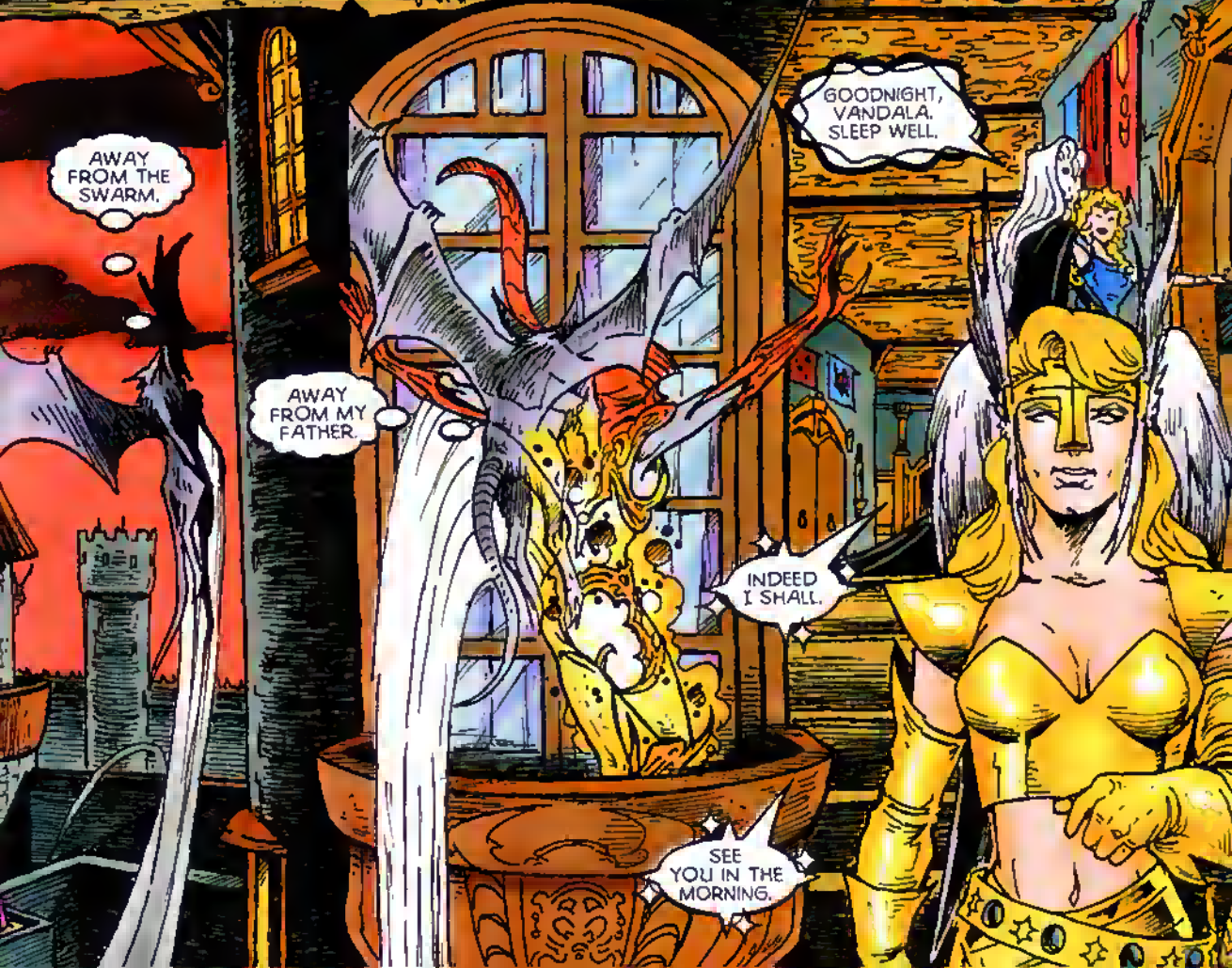
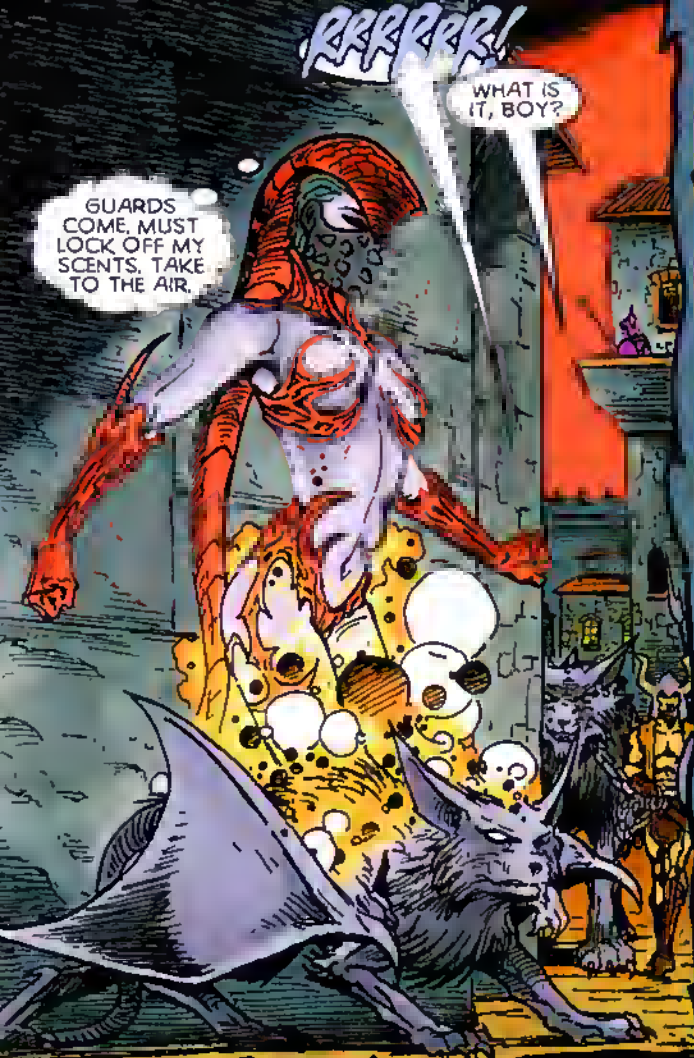
VANDALA?! YOU DIDN'T SAY A THING!

WOULD YOU HAVE BELIEVED ME?

POINT TAKEN!









LATER.

SO THIS IS  
VANDALA?  
PERFECT. AN  
EASY KILL.

SLEEPING  
LIKE A NEWBORN  
LARVAE. SHE  
WON'T EVEN  
KNOW!

I... I  
CAN'T.  
THAT'S  
WHY GENOCIDE  
SENT ME! TO  
TEST MY LOYALTY.  
I AM LOYAL, BUT  
I JUST CAN'T  
KILL! HUH?

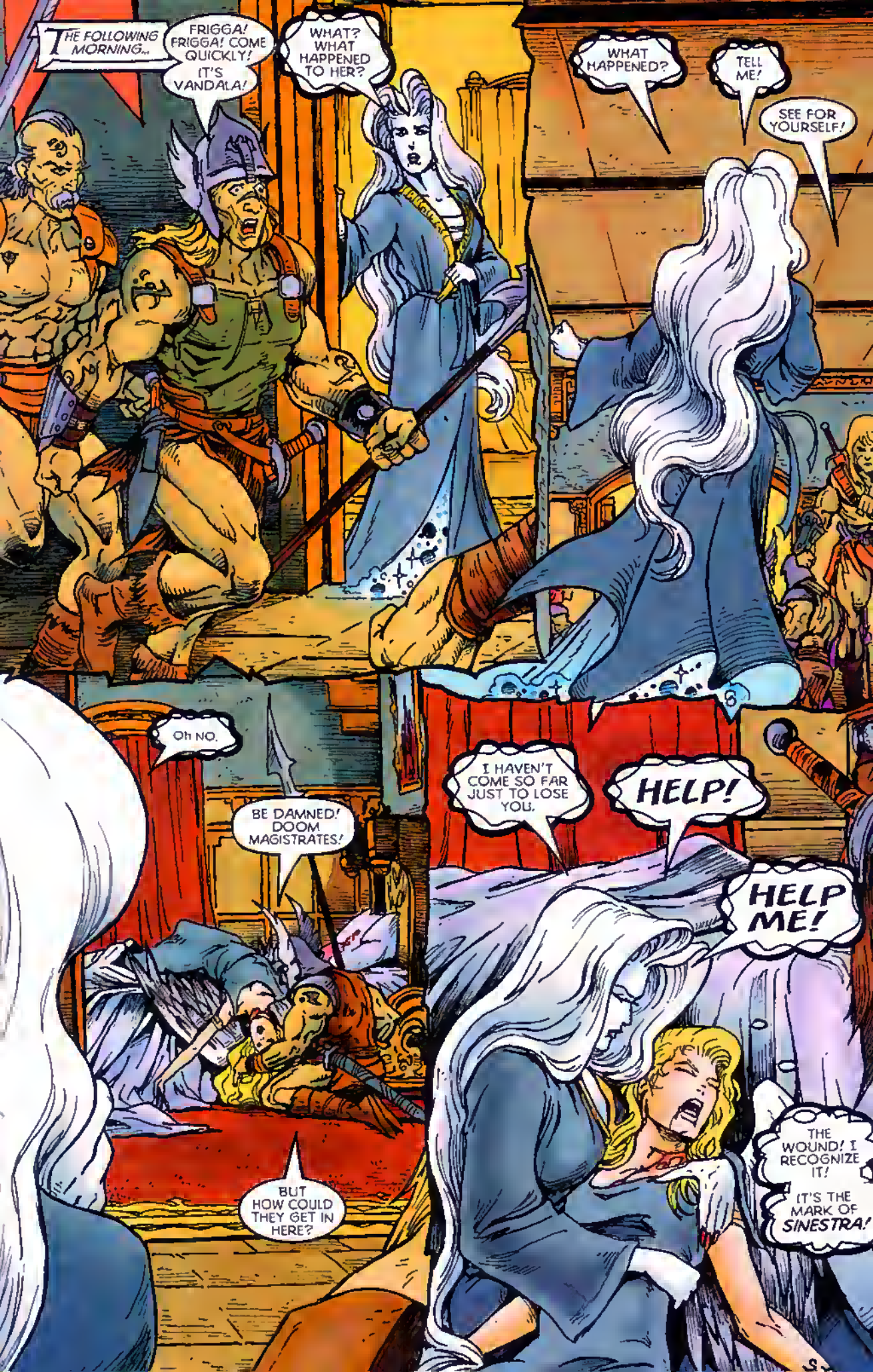
SINESTRA!

YESS,  
THIS IS THE  
LASST TIME  
I SSSAVE YOUR  
WORTHLESS  
HIDE, VEX! NOW  
OUT OF MY  
WAY!

YOU!

SKIT





THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

FRIGGA! FRIGGA! COME QUICKLY! IT'S VANDALA!

WHAT? WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?

WHAT HAPPENED?

TELL ME!

SEE FOR YOURSELF!

Oh NO.

BE DAMNED! DOOM MAGISTRATES!

I HAVEN'T COME SO FAR JUST TO LOSE YOU.


HELP!

HELP ME!

BUT HOW COULD THEY GET IN HERE?

THE WOUND! I RECOGNIZE IT! IT'S THE MARK OF SINESTRA!





HOW GOES  
THE BATTLE  
TO THE  
NORTH?

POORLY.  
IT  
LOOKS LIKE  
THE HORDE WILL  
BREAK THROUGH  
ANY MOMENT  
NOW.

WHERE  
ARE YOU  
GOING?!

**TO  
WAR!**

next issue:

**NO QUARTER!**



# Lady Death®

*"The Crucible" part 1 (of 6): "Over The Hills and Far Away"*



## Dedication

This series and all my efforts from this moment forward are dedicated to the memory of my Dad, the man who made Chaos! Comics possible. I love you Dad, and I miss you.  
Joseph Pulido - entered into eternal rest June 5, 1990.

## Inspiration

This tale is inspired by the momentous lyrics of Robert Plant and the sweeping music of JIMMY PAGE and LED ZEPPELIN.

## Story So Far

The Odyssey is over! Let The Crucible begin!

Creator/Writer

Brian Pulido

Illustrator

Steven Hughes

Colorist

Jason Jensen

Letterer

Richard Starkings & Comieraft

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Please support your local comic shop. We recommend that you purchase and order our stuff through them. However, if that doesn't work out for any reason, send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope to receive a catalog of available Chaos! Comics & stuff to: CHAOS! COMICS COLLECTORS CATALOG: 7645 E. Evans Rd. Suite 6, Scottsdale, AZ 85260. (No Stamp-No Catalog)

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# Last Writes

Last Writes: 7645 E. Evans Rd. Suite 6 • Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Welcome to The Crucible! Lady Death's Odyssey is over and she no longer dreams of peace because she AIN'T gonna get it! This series promises to show a brutal and savage side of Lady Death that you haven't seen before and the climax of the series will take you by surprise! I say that with a lot of confidence. We've been planning this one for a while!

Some of you have asked me to comment on Rob Liefeld's Avengeblade parody book. To be honest, my only feeling is that Liefeld is a scared little boy. If he had anything to say to me or Steve directly, why wasn't he man enough to look us in the face and say it? He had to hide behind his "parody" book.

We're looking forward to catching up with Liefeld in person. That goes for Robert Napton too.

Now onto something that really matters, a contest and some letters!

## PINUP - CONTEST BONANZA!

Submit a pencil, inked and colored pinup of Lady Death, Evil, Purgatori, Chastity (or any other Chaos! character). Submissions can be on any unlined paper or poster board and can be any medium (but not neon ink). Artwork must be no larger than 8 1/2 x 11". Mail flat to avoid damage. Do not fold or roll artwork. All entries are nonreturnable and become the property of Chaos! Comics. Be sure to include your name, address, age, and telephone number on the back of your entry to be considered.

**Deadline for entries: January 15, 1997, so go to it!!!!**

## HERE'S WHAT YOU GET IF YOU WIN

We will pick winners every month. Each winner gets one (1) signed Lady Death: The Crucible #1 - premium Leather Edition. You can tell if you win if we print your pinup in a Chaos! Comic.

## GRAND PRIZE WINNER

One grand prize winner will have their pinup published as a trading card in the upcoming **EVIL ERNIE III Chromium Trading Card Set!** Yup, you heard me right. Additionally, we'll include your biographical info on the card back and we'll hook you up with more free stuff than you can shake a tailbone at. Void where prohibited by law.

**BONUS INCENTIVE** (for ANYONE who submits): Include a self addressed stamped envelope and I (Brian P.) will personally send you a cool FREEBIE!!!

## YO CHAOS!

In Lady Death: The Odyssey #4 Asteroth got his butt whipped too easily. I thought that dude was buff. What gives?

Sincerely,  
Joe Pontis  
Woodland Hills, CA

Perhaps Asteroth goaded Lady Death into exhausting her angelic energies? Now that they're dormant (or gone) she has less defenses against his possible return. Can't trust those darn Hellions!

## DEAR CHAOS!

I think it's high time Chaos! Comics got more attention and RESPECT from the comics press. Lady Death is the number one selling female comics character PERIOD. She lays the others to waste. Then why was Shi and now Witchblade on the cover of Wizard? That guy who does Shi can't even get



Here is the astounding work of the incredible Staci Ingram who (along with the help of Travis Cook) made these 22 custom action figures! They're #5&#34; cool. (Thanks for hooking me up with the Asteroth, Travis!).

his book out and Witchblade is only the flavor of the month. I mean, you guys do a lot of promotions with these guys, but where are the articles?! Oh, I get it. Come Halloween it will be acceptable to support you guys 'cause horror is okay then. Hey out there, to a lot of us, it's Halloween EVERY DAY!!!

What's the problem? I follow the comics trades and I KNOW Chaos! Comics is a consistent top ten publisher. And Chaos! isn't

a flavor of the week company either.

EVERY Chaos! Comic listed has come out ON TIME this year (except for Purgatori #1. I heard it was complications from the enhanced cover, so we'll let you slide).

Chaos! Comics has had a profound effect on the comics industry. Let's cut through the crap. Vampiella and Shi may have come out at the same time, but Lady Death single-handedly deserves credit for starting the bad girl genre (of course, Image milked it to death already). Now everyone is jumping on the "Darkness" bandwagon (Extreme, Top Cow). But the difference with you guys is you mean it. The other guys are just cashing in like they always do. They can BS all they want, but I know they're full of it. Who did a Lingerie Special first? Chaos! Then Top Cow copied you. Who did a "Bible" first? Chaos! Then Extreme and McFarlane copied you.

The only way for Chaos! Comics to get respect from the Comics press is to DEMAND it. It's time people!

I officially challenge each and every Chaos! Comics fan, reader and collector to write to Wizard, Fan, Combo and CBG and tell them to COVER CHAOS! Stop putting them down, stop making fun of Lady Death's breasts. They're big. Get over it, okay! Chaos! totally rules and it's up to US to let the world know!

Sworn to the masters of darkness,

Lyle Artis  
Cherry Hill, New Jersey

## DEAR BRIAN,

Will we see the return of Vassago and the Nameless Wolves?

Death to all who oppose Chaos!  
Randi Gelding  
Bridgeport, CT

Oh, you mean Odin's wolves that he sent to protect Lady D? Whoops, I'm spilling the beans. To answer your question, YUP. Very soon, my friend. Very soon.

## Next Issue

Savagery. Brutality. WAR! And a side of Lady Death you've NEVER seen before!

